

INDIANA BOARD OF FIREFIGHTING
PERSONNEL STANDARDS AND EDUCATION
MINUTES

May 10, 2011 6pm
Crawfordsville FD
101 S Water St
Crawfordsville IN 47933
765-362-1277

A Meeting called to order at 6pm

B. Roll Call

Present

Jeff Hayes, Chair
Jack Kerney, Vice Chair
Jerry Nulliner
Thomas Hanify (6:10)
James Bennett
James Greeson
Greg Wyant
Burk Jones

Absent

Candice Ashby
Ab Crosby

C. Approval of March 21, 2011 minutes as submitted.

Jack Kerney made a motion to approve minutes as submitted. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

D. Certifications report, Rick Archer:

The number of certifications issued this year has declines slightly. We have issued a little over 1100 since the last board meeting. We have activated the on-

line recertification for EMS and it is going well. Approximately 40% of those renewing on-line are being audited right now. The system automatically audits a percentage of those being submitted. The individuals that have been audited have 3 business days to send their complete to information us. We still accept the hard copies in the office if the individuals want to do it that way. On-line is an option they have available if they want to use it. We hope to have this available to the Instructor I, and II/III in June.

Jerry Nulliner requested a report that shows year to date this year compared to last year at this time.

E Variance requests:

1. Timothy Murray requested a variance for Instructor 2/3. His certification expired in 2003. He is currently an ILEA instructor and he has been the training officer for IDHS Arson division.

Staff recommends denial. Tim's certification has been expired for over 8 years. Tim is eligible to request reciprocity for instructor II/III. Tim currently holds a First Class Instructor certification.

James Greeson made a motion to approve the staff recommendation. James Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed.

2. Chad Poling requested a variance for Instructor II/III. He is an Indiana licensed teacher. He has also requested FO1.

Staff recommends approval for Instructor II/III pending his passing his instructor reciprocity test. Staff recommends denial for Fire Officer I. We have requested transcripts or education to show where he is NFPA compliant.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed.

3. Michael Morris requested a variance for Instructor I. He expired August 31, 2010. He failed to renew.

Staff recommends denial. It is the responsibility of the individual to keep track of the expiration date and act accordingly.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Burke Jones seconded. Motion passed.

4. Barry Nicoson requested a variance for Instructor I, II/III. His Instructor I lapsed in 2005, however, he holds a current PI certification.

Staff recommends denial. Barry's certification has been expired for over 6 years. Barry is eligible to request reciprocity for Instructor I, 2/3 based on is primary instructor.

Burke Jones made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jerry Nulliner seconded. Motion passed.

5. David Boone requested a variance for Fire Officer IV based on his current certification and work experience. David has described in the enclosed letter how his everyday work meets the NFPA 1021 standard.

Staff recommends denial. The Board has not accepted in the past, work experience as qualifications. We have a written/practical exam in place.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve staff recommendation. Jack Kerney seconded. Motion passed.

6. Kyle Hamilton requested a variance for Instructor I, II/III. He currently holds a law enforcement instructor certification.

Staff recommends denial. Kyle has been in with Fairmount VFD for 5 months and recently received his Firefighter I/II. Staff recommends that he have minimum of 1 year as Firefighter 2 before requesting Instructor certification.

Tom Hanify made a motion to approve staff recommendation. James Bennett seconded. Motion passed.

7. Samantha Burrell requested reciprocity for Firefighter I/II; and Driver Operator Pumper. Samantha has been a Firefighter in New York since 2001. In 2008 she moved to Ft Wayne and was unable to get on the fire dept there. She moved to Columbia City and joined the Union Twp VFD in 2010.

Tom Hanify made a motion to table this request until the June meeting. Information was not received until the last minute and the Board has not had time to look at it in order to give a valid verdict. Burke Jones seconded the motion. Motion passed.

F. Request for Administrative review.

1. David Cherrone is requesting a review of the Board denial of his Instructor II/III at the March meeting.

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve the request and forward the information to Judge Bippus. Greg Wyant seconded the motion. Motion passed.

G. State Fire Marshal, James Greeson

We still have smoke alarms for the hearing impaired. We have only a few left so let us know in the Fire Marshal's office and we will try to get them out. We are applying for this grant again this year and we will let you know if we get the funds and when we will start again.

I had a discussion this week with Representatives from the Governor's Office about budgets. We want to talk about taxes, levies, tax rates, and everything that deals with FD budgets.

We have new laws dealing with fireworks this year. We are allowing 2 storage containers on site, minimum of 15' apart, airtight, locked and watertight. Fire dept has to be notified in writing the location of these containers, ID# on all 4 corners of these containers. They are not to be selling out of these containers, they are storage only.

We have an open position for compliance officer, this used to be the Building commissioner position. Mike Bigler retired and his position is also open.

I was down south in the flooded areas for about a week and the procedures that were set up for that worked really well. We seemed to have a quicker and more user friendly system in this.

SB6 has been passed. This is if you are on state lines and you respond to a fire across the line, you can recoup cost if there is a large event other than day to day operations. It takes both states to approve the bill, and so far, Indiana is the only one that has passed this bill so far.

SB1365 allows VFD to recoup attorney fees if they have to sue to collect fees.

H. Training Director, James Bennett

I have to congratulate the certification section on getting this on-line recertification up and running.

Our thoughts and prayers for the family of Matt Aker, Portland fire Chief, who died in a motorcycle accident last week.

We are bringing a group of subject matter experts in the office on May 11 and May 12 to validate test banks.

A conference call was set up with me, Chief Buckman, and Rick Batza and several other arson investigators and instructors throughout the state. We are finding that live fire is not being used, court room testimony is not being taught, and actual skills are not being done with the arson classes. We are going to be bringing a group together in June for a 2 day seminar to create curriculum, skills, validate the bank and have a completed program at the end of this.

We are trying to get the word out about the Indiana Fire training webinar. We can have up to 10001 on this at one time for training purposes.

I. Fire Training Director, John Buckman

We got our IFSAC certifications back for FF ½, Hazmat awareness and operations, and instructor I. There will be a few changes to the process;

- a) You have to be an Indiana instructor to be lead evaluator and proctor.
- b) A requirement for IFSAC is that you have to attend a t-t-t as a lead evaluator; proctor and lead instructor in order to do a class that will be IFSAC eligible. These will last around 30 minutes.

Individuals are not notifying us 30 days prior to the start of a course. The rules say 30 days and we have not been enforcing this. From now on, you will get a call from me asking why you didn't do this.

From this date forward you will get the amount of tests that you have student names registered. We no longer accept 30 students. You must give us 30 names in order to get 30 tests and then I am still going to call you to see if you really have that many students.

- 1. On-line testing updates
Karrie Dillon is still working with envisage to finalize some issues there.
- 2. FF ½ practical skills update
How is it progressing and how is it being presented to those unable to attend an in-service
 - a) The board would.....like to see the new skills reformatted. When you print this due to the format, you have a 2 inch stack of paperwork and I think if you adjust the font and remove the IFSTA way of making everything big and huge, you would have something much more user friendly. We are not asking to eliminate any skills, just make the required paperwork more concise and user friendly.
- 3. Fire Investigator skill testing

Webinar system:

John Buckman stated you have to have an invitation in order to get on the webinar. When you get the invitation, you can then forward the link to everyone that you want on it, and they can forward it to anyone they want on it, and so on. There is no way we have e-mail addresses for the whole state so we have to depend on the people we send the invitation to, to forward to more people. We are bringing 20+ instructors and subject matter specialist in the government center to validate as many test banks as we can in 2 days. They are not only looking to see if the answer is in one book and xx page, they are also looking at the question itself. Is it relevant to all firefighters, not just career or voluntary but all firefighters, are the questions clear and concise, do we have the correct answer listed, etc. We are tearing apart the questions and answers and working them to make them understandable, legible, and only 1 correct answer available. We are doing FF ½, Inspector ½, DOP; DOA; Instructor I; Instructor II/III; Safety Officer, Fire Officer 2.

John Buckman stated I will try to have the webinar classes on our web site. I don't know if this is possible but I will try. This way, if you did not get the invitation, you can still go to the website and attend the training. We plan on doing this every 3 months.

J. Administrative proceedings

1. Administrative Cause No. 11-01, Oral Banta
 - a. Oral Banta written rebuttal of the findingsTom Hanify made a motion to table this and give the board more time to review all documentation. James Bennett seconded the motion. Motion passed. This will be on the June 16th agenda.
2. Administrative Cause No 11-03, James McIntosh

Jerry Nulliner made a motion to approve the Fire Officer IV certification. Tom Hanify seconded. Motion passed.

K. Old business

1. LSA Doc #10-248 NFPA updates, approved, Mara Snyder

The Governor signed the bill and it will become effective May 26, 2010. On that date, you can print the new 655 IAC rules from our web page.

L. New business

1. Discussion on 655 IAC 1-1-13

Staff is asking the intent behind this rule. The rule reads that an instructor cannot evaluate the subject matter that he taught. Does this include the lead instructor also? The issue is that you have some lead instructors that do nothing but organize a course and then back out and let the instructors take over and teach. Other lead instructors are hands on through the whole class. They assist during classes doing different things, they sit in on classes, and they participate during the course. Are they allowed to evaluate skills pertaining to the course?

Tom Hanify made a motion for staff to submit their solution and recommendation in writing to the June board meeting. Motion passed.

3. Letter from Fire Training Officers,

A letter was submitted from training officers around the state asking for 2 different issues.

- 1) instructors want to be notified when paperwork is missing from test packets.
 - a) John Buckman states that instructors, lead evaluator and proctors are notified about missing paperwork. Usually e-mailed if we have a valid address.
- 2) instructors want scores released to them.
 - a) John Buckman states that we do not give out pass/fail information. The student needs to convey this information to the instructor if it is required. It was brought to everyone's attention instructors can look on the web site to see if a student has been certified, which would indicate they passed the test.
 - b) Mara Snyder states that we can give pass/fail information but we cannot release the scores due to the privacy act.

Tom Hanify states that this is the individuals personal business and their lawyer needs to put in writing why he thinks the information can be released.

M. Meeting adjourned at 8:30pm

Next meeting:

BE IT NOTED..... Some communications were sent out stating the meeting will be conducted on FRIDAY June 17th, which is NOT the case. Note the time that is posted for the meeting.

June 16, 9AM (EDT)
South Bend
IVFA Convention
120 S St Joseph St
South Bend IN 46601
574-235-9711